REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending with the response to this Office Action. Claims 1-7, 10-19, and 21-22 are rejected. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing the subject matter of claims 8, 9, and 20 if claims 8, 9, and 20 were rewritten in independent form. Also, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings.

In a preliminary amendment filed on October 28, 2002, the Applicant requested that the title be amended to "CREATING CHAT ROOMS WITH MULTIPLE ROLES FOR MULTIPLE PARTICIPANTS".

In a preliminary amendment filed on November 5, 2001, the Applicant added claims 23-41. The Examiner has not examined the added claims. (The Applicant filed the present patent application with claims 1-22.) Also, the Applicant amended the specification to claim priority to US Application Numbers 09/306,467 and 09/305,930, both filed on May 5, 1999.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner did not consider some of the non-patent documents cited in the IDS filed on November 5, 2001. The Applicant is subsequently filing a Supplementary IDS with copies of the relevant documents in a separate paper.

Typographical Errors

The Applicant has included "and" between the last and second to the last element in claims 1, 12, and 13.

Objections to Claims

Claims 10-11 and 21-22 are objected to, by the Office Action, "because the term 'the help engine' appears to lack antecedent basis in claims 10 and 21. The Applicant has amended claims 10 and 21 to replace "the help engine" with "a help engine" in order to establish a proper antecedent basis. In addition, claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 3 rather than claim 1 in order to establish a proper antecedent basis for "the virtual director engine."

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 10, 12-15, and 21 are rejected by the Office Action as being allegedly anticipated by US 6,073,127 (Lannert). However, in order "to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim." (MPEP § 2131.) The Office Action fails to do so.

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Regarding claim 1, the cited teaching of Lannert does not teach the feature of "prompting the users to enter a response congruent with the goal." As cited by the Office Action. Lannert merely teaches (Abstract, lines 8-15.):

> The system utilizes an artificial intelligence engine driving individualized and dynamic feedback with synchronized video and graphics used to simulate real-world environment and interactions. Multiple "correct" answers are integrated into the learning system to allow individualized learning experiences n which navigation through the system is at a pace controlled by the learner.

The above teaching does not even relate to prompting the users and to a response congruent with the goal. The above teaching of Lannert merely teaches about feedback but does not teach the feature of "prompting the users to enter a response congruent with the goal." Moreover, the cited teaching of Lannert does not teach the feature of "providing at least one user with feedback **from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal.**" (Emphasis added.) As cited by the Office Action, Lannert (Abstract, lines 12-15 as cited above and column 43, lines 50-67) teaches:

> When the student is ready, he submits his work to one of the simulated team members by clicking on the team member's icon. When the ICAT receives the student's work, it calculates how much of the work is correct by concept. Concepts in our journalization activity will include Debits, Credits, Asset Accounts, etc. For each of these concepts, the ICAT will review all student actions and determine how many of the student actions were correct. In order for the ICAT to understand which targets on the interface are associated with each concept, the targets are handled into target groups and prioritized in a hierarchical embodiment. For each target group--or concept, such as debit--a number of aggregate values will be calculated. These aggregate values determine how many student actions were right, wrong or irrelevant.

The above teaching does not even relate to another user and does not teach the feature of "providing at least one user with feedback **from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal.**" Thus, for at least the above reasons, Lannert does not anticipate claim 1.

Similarly, claim 12 includes "logic that prompts the users to enter a response congruent with the goal" and "logic that provides feedback to at least one user from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal." Also, claim 13 includes "a code segment that prompts the users to enter a response congruent with the goal"

and "a code segment that provides feedback to at least one user from at least one other user, wherein the feedback is designed to assist the at least one user to achieve the goal." Moreover, claims 2-3, 10, 14-15, and 21 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 13 and are not anticipated for at least the above reasons. The Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-3, 10, 12-15, and 21.

Moreover, the cited teaching of Lannert fails to teach the additional feature of "calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal" as included in claim 2. As cited by the Office Action, Lannert teaches (Column 28, lines 40-48.):

> The remediation model used within ICAT dynamically composes the most appropriate feedback to deliver to a student based on student's previous responses. The ICAT model is based on a theory of feedback which has been proven effective by pilot results and informal interviews. The model is embodied in the object model and algorithms of the ICAT. Because the model is built into the tools, all feedback created with the tool will conform to the model.

The above teaching does not relate to a level of congruency between the response and a target response and does not anticipate the feature of "calculating a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal." Similarly, claim 14 includes "a code segment which calculates a level of congruency between the response and a target response designed to achieve the goal" and is thus not anticipated for at least the above reasons.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-7, 11, 16-19, and 22 are rejected by the Office Action as allegedly being unpatentable over Lannert. The assignee of US 6,073,127 is AC Properties B.V. Moreover, the owner of the claimed invention, at the time the invention was made, is AC Properties B.V. In accordance with 35 U.S.C. 103(c), prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is not to be considered when determining whether an invention sought to be patented is obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, provided the subject matter and the claimed invention were commonly owned at the time the invention was made. (MPEP § 2146.) The Applicant is attaching copies of the recorded assignments for US Application Numbers 09/306,467 and 09/305,930, which the present patent application claims priority to. Both recorded assignments show AC Properties B.V. as the assignee. Consequently, the claimed invention, at the time the invention was made, and US 6,073,127 have common ownership. Because the rejections of claims 4-7, 11, 16-19, and 22 cite US 6,073,127, the Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 4-7, 11, 16-19, and 22.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-9 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claims 8-9 and 20 to be in independent form. Thus, the Applicant is requesting withdrawal of the objections.
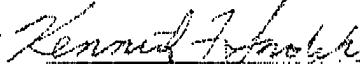
Unexamined Claims

As discussed above, the Applicant filed a preliminary amendment that added claims 23-41. The Applicant requests that the added claims be examined.

Conclusion

It is respectively submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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